

CLAIMS

1. A skin lightening composition comprising;
  - a) 0.05 % to 10 % by weight of one or more of vitamin B3 compounds or its derivatives thereof;
  - b) 0.01 % to 10 % by weight of allantoin; and
  - c) a cosmetically acceptable vehicle or 15 % to 85 % by weight detergent active.
- 10 2. The skin lightening composition of claim 1 wherein the vitamin B3 compound is selected from niacin, niacinamide, nicotinyl alcohol, or derivatives or salts thereof.
- 15 3. The skin lightening composition of claim 1 wherein the vitamin B3 derivative is selected from nicotinic acid esters, nicotinyl alcohol esters of carboxylic acids, niacinamide N-oxide, nicotinyl amino acids and nicotinic acid n-oxide
- 20 4. The skin lightening composition of claim 1 wherein the vitamin B3 compound is niacinamide present in 0.2 % to 5 % by weight.
- 25 5. The skin lightening composition of claim 1 wherein allantoin is present at a level of 0.05 % to 5 % by weight.
- 30 6. The skin lightening composition of claim 1 additionally comprising 0.1 % to 10 % by weight of one or more sunscreens.

7. The skin lightening composition of claim 1 wherein the sunscreen is selected from 2-ethyl hexyl-p-methoxycinnamate, 4,4'-t-butyl methoxydibenzoyl-methane, titanium dioxide or mixtures thereof.

8. The skin lightening composition of claim 1 additionally comprising vitamin B6.

10 9. The skin lightening composition of claim 1 wherein the composition is a leave on product.

10. The skin lightening composition of claim 1 wherein the composition is in the form of a soap bar.

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11. A cosmetic method of lightening skin comprising applying thereto a composition according to claim 1.

20 12. A cosmetic method according to claim 11 wherein the composition is applied to and left on the skin.

13. A cosmetic method according to claim 11 wherein the composition is applied to the skin and subsequently washed off.

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